

# Morning Meeting Greetings



## Say Your Name

The whole class begins with chanting the refrain: “Say your name and when you do, we will say it back to you!” Then the first child says his or her name aloud: “Melanie!” The whole class in unison repeats the name back: “Melanie!” Then the whole class chants the refrain again, followed by the next child, and then the whole class repeating the name back. This pattern continues all the way around the circle until everyone has had the chance to be recognized by name.

If you are short on time, have the class say the refrain after every third or fourth student, or just sing the chant in the beginning, but repeat each child’s name. Children can choose what kind of voice they would like to use to say their name—a soft voice, a deep voice, a high-pitched voice, a friendly voice, a spooky voice, etc.—which the whole class then echoes. Or try singing it as a rap or adding hand-clapping and thigh-tapping to the refrain. Children can also clap out the number of syllables in their names. Finally, children enjoy adding a movement or a gesture to go with their name which everyone then mimics when they repeat the name.



## Closed Eye Greeting

The children close their eyes and the teacher chooses someone to begin. This child opens his/her eyes and says “Good Morning” to anyone in the circle. When the person being greeted hears his/her name, s/he opens his/her eyes, returns the greeting, and then greets someone else whose eyes are still closed. This continues until everyone has been greeted. This is a great greeting to follow with a debriefing: How did it feel to have your eyes closed? For those of you who were left until the end, what was it like? How did we help each other in this greeting? This greeting works best in the middle of the school year once a sense of trust has been established.



## 2-4-6-8!

In contrast to the Closed Eye Greeting, here’s a loud and rowdy greeting. Everyone stands in a circle and together the group claps and chants, “2-4-6-8! Who do we appreciate? Mary! Mary! Yeaaaaaaaaaaaaah— Mary!” While the group chants “Yeaaaaaaaaaaaaah,” Mary walks quickly around the inside of the circle giving everyone a high-five. The students should be ready with their high-five hand up in the air so Mary can easily move around the circle and get back to her spot before the chant is over. When Mary gets back to her spot, the other children finish the chant by calling out her name and perhaps even raising their arms above their heads in a cheer. Continue around the circle until everyone has been “appreciated.”



## Round the Circle Hello

The children stand in a circle and one student is chosen to be the first greeter. The greeter walks (or uses any movement that has been agreed on) around the outside of the circle clockwise and chooses a student by tapping him/her on the shoulder. The tapped student leaves his/her spot and travels (walks, hops, skips, tip-toes, etc.) around the outside of the circle counterclockwise. When the two students meet, they stop and use a greeting that has been agreed on—a handshake, high-five, bow, say “Howdy,” greet in a different language, etc. The child who was tapped now becomes the greeter and the other child returns to his/her seat. This continues until everyone has been greeted.